

Helen M. Carson
7142 S. New Apple St.
Liveston, Michigan
48346

MM93-48

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OCT 11 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Oct. 14, 1995

Dear Mr. Hundt,

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

I am writing to express my concern over the quality of children's T.V. programming. I have a seven year old girl and a four year old boy. They are bombarded everyday by more and more cartoons and advertisements for soap. I see very little if any programs devoted to educating my children. Their brains are being saturated with R-rated and violent shows like *Baywatch* and *Rangers*. They are never being exposed to valuable quality programming. My hope as a parent is to turn the T.V. off! I hope the choice of the Federal Communications Commission is to boost the Children's Television Act with some effective rules. I hope it includes programming that will have a "significant purpose" and a true educational value. I hope the programs air between 6:00am and 11:00 pm. I hope those truly educational programs

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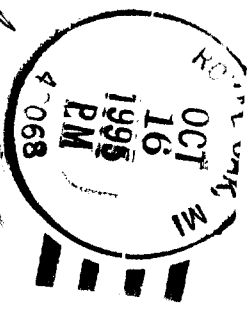
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come on for a substantial length of time. These programs should have written statements that the stations provide that identify what child audiences are targeted by the programs. The programs air times should be published and identified in order for parents to be able to choose these shows. Lastly, I hope the commission will demand at least 3 hours per week of educational shows for children and they will increase these hours to 5 after several years.

Please let's change the way children view TV. Let's help educate them! Let's stop turning their brains to mush! Let me the parents turn the knob back on for my children.

Sincerely
Helen Carson

Over
Shoups St.
Eaton, Pa. 48346



Paul Wendt
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington D.C.

20557

111

PROMOTING WHAT HELPS CHILDREN, CHANGING WHAT HARMS THEM

Obligation, Inc.

Jim Metrock, President

3100 Lorna Road
Suite 311
Birmingham, AL 35216

(205) 822-0080

Obligation, Inc.

REMINING BUSINESSES, GOVERNMENTS, AND INDIVIDUALS OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHILDREN
3100 Lorna Road, Suite 311, Birmingham, AL 35216 (205) 822-0080

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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OCT 11 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

July 23, 1996

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I was impressed with your messages
at NATRE, NAB, and last year at the Nashville
Family & Media meeting.

You have encouraged us to make TV
better.

If you can help us in anyway we need
all the help we can get. I thought you
would like to see what we're doing with
the CTA.

Best wishes,

Jim Metcalf

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Obligation, Inc.

REMINING BUSINESSES, GOVERNMENTS, AND INDIVIDUALS OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO CHILDREN
3100 Lorna Road, Suite 311, Birmingham, AL 35216 (205) 822-0080

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For Further Information:
Jim Metrock, President
(205) 822-0080 Office
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April 30, 1996

BIRMINGHAM, AL - Local TV stations have considered shows like Muppet Babies, The Bugs Bunny and Tweety Bird Show, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, NBA Inside Stuff, the cartoon show Dumb and Dumber, and America's Funniest Home Videos to be examples of programs fulfilling their requirement to meet the "educational and informational" needs of Alabama children.

"This is scandalous," said Jim Metrock, president of Obligation, Inc., a Birmingham-based child advocacy organization. The group recently conducted a review of the Birmingham TV station's public files, dating back to 1990.

The Children's Television Act of 1990 (CTA) established a statutory obligation to serve the educational needs of children. The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) is the regulatory body that enforces the CTA and other regulations concerning broadcasters.

Under the terms of the Act, each television broadcast station is required to serve the "educational and informational needs of children" in their overall programming, which is to include "some" programming specifically designed to serve those needs. The FCC is required by the Act to review at renewal time the extent to which television licensees have complied with this programming standard.

The license of all Alabama TV stations come up for renewal April 1997.

Two area of a station's performance will get close FCC scrutiny during license renewal: EEO (Equal Employment Opportunity) compliance and CTA requirements.

Metrock said, "We are calling their hand on this charade. Stations should not submit a list of cartoons and teenage sitcoms as evidence of their meeting the children's educational requirements of the CTA."

Other examples of "educational and informational" programs listed by local stations are: the cartoons - Free Willy, Where's Waldo, Blinky Bill, Dennis the Menace, Bobby's World, Bump in the Night, Bananas in Pajamas, and Reboot; and the teenage sitcoms - Hang Time, and California Dreams.

"Local TV stations find themselves in an embarrassing situation. Since they have not been serving the educational needs of our children, they have hardly anything to show the FCC. So they are forced to use tortured logic to make 'educational programs' out of programs that were never meant to be informative."

A word-for-word example from WVTM's public file: An episode of California Dreams called "The Dateless Game" 2/3/96. "Jake participates in a 'dating game' type contest and wins a date with another girl on the same night as his anniversary with Tiffani. With the help of the guys, Jake tries to carry off both dates, but fails. Jake is surprised that Tiffani is not upset about 'the other woman,' but by his dishonesty, and realizes he should have told the truth. [Educational theme: If you are in a relationship, you should have enough confidence in your knowledge of the other person to be forthright and to work out almost any problem that arises.]"

"Every program on TV could be considered educational using this type of crazy thinking. However, the insult to our children is made even worst when you see what they do with some good children's programming. Feed Your Mind is a children's program that has some substance, but it is on at 7:00 AM Sunday morning. That is not 'prime time' for kids."

WABM puts on a truly educational program for kids Bill Nye the Science Guy, but it's on 6:00 AM Saturday mornings. Captain Planet on NBC13 is aired Saturdays at 5:30 AM.

"Think it can't get worst? NBC13 airs News For Kids every Saturday at 5:00AM. Then they want the FCC to give them credit for airing that program for kids. No way," said Metrock.

Obligation found some substantive programs that were aired at decent times such as WBMG's Beakman's World (Saturdays Noon) and WTOO's Where On Earth is Carmen Sandiego (Saturdays 7:00 AM).

Metrock said the stations will be judged by the FCC on what they have done with children's educational programming for the entire period of their license, not just what they are doing currently. That is why the survey went back several years. "They are coming into license renewal time in pretty lousy shape as far as children's programming goes. They have every reason to be worried."

"The station's need to understand that the Alabama public demands much more from them than the FCC requires of them. We want our stations to be much more responsible to children than they have been in the past."

Metrock said, "General managers of local stations must get their public file in order. They can no longer call programs "educational" that have no educational element. And more importantly, they need to get absolutely serious about serving the needs of Alabama children."

Separately, Obligation has requested all Birmingham TV stations to refrain from broadcasting adult-oriented programming, especially Trash TV talk shows, during their daytime summer schedule.

Obligation is in the ninth month of a campaign to convince local advertisers to not sponsor offensive daytime talk shows. So far 29 local companies have significantly reduced their ads on these programs or have stopped advertising on them.

Metrock said, "If a local company financially underwrites this cultural rot for our children and grandchildren during their summer vacations, they should be prepared to hear from an outraged community."

Obligation urges all news media to inspect the public files of WBRC, WVTM, WTOO, WBMG, and WABM to verify the information contained in this release.

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OCT 11 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary2nd August, 1996
843 N. ORANGE DR.,
APT. #5,
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
90038

MM93-48

TO: Mr. Reed Hundt
Chairman,
Federal Communications Committee,
1919 M Street N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hundt,

I am writing to you to express my opinion of the recent agreement you signed with President Bill Clinton regarding broadcaster's 3 hours a week airing of educational children's shows.

First I would like to point out to you that as a parent of a 9 year old boy I do not think that 3 hours a week of (children's) educational shows is enough, especially considering the number of hours a week are given to airing "soap opera", "trendy" and violence content programmes. (i.e. minimum 15 hours week for "soaps")

Second, I find that many of the programmes aired for children up to 16 years of age are of very poor quality—cartoons filled with violence and shows such as "BEAVIS & BUTT-HEAD"—have very little, if any educational quality.

Third, it is said that in recent years, TV executives have claimed that such "profitable" shows as "G.I. JOE", "THE JETSONS" and "LEAVE IT TO BEAVER" — and "DONAHUE" — "satisfied" a 1990 law requiring a commitment to educational programming. I, for one, would not share such views — "G.I. JOE" and "THE JETSONS" are cartoons (i.e. filled with violence and anti-social behaviours) — "LEAVE IT TO BEAVER" a comedy show and "DONAHUE", filled with news making sensationalism. Hence, I fail to see how i.e. a 16 year old girl screwing round with a man in his 50s to be of "educational" value to children under 16 years of age.

Fourth, compared to the quality of educational children's shows of other countries, such as Great Britain (BBC, ITV, BBC2, etc.), Italy, France, the quality of educational children's shows here in the United States is of rather poor quality — with the exception of Fox Children's Network, the Discovery Channel, the History Channel, and the PBS channels — and also the good, clean and wholesome educational children's shows aired by Paul Crouch's TRINITY BROADCASTING NETWORK — TBN.

It is obvious that "trendy" rap and hype and network profits rule supreme vs. quality and educational value in the United States.

The so-called "trendy" programmes such as "CHARISSA" and "RUGRATS" I would not deem "educational"; nor do I deem "SPEED RACER" and "THE FLINTSTONES" as being of educational quality either.

It is obvious that here in the United States, the American populace of today will watch any old rubbish that is cranked out of the Hollywood studios. I happen to live not far from some of these studios that crank out such poor quality "educational" children's shorts. I live in Hollywood.

Fifth, I understand that under this bill / agreement you signed with President Clinton that broadcasters can "wiggle out" of making good educational children's shows by showing "public service advertisements"; or by donating computer equipment to schools — which to me is "copping out" — or avoiding the responsibility of making good quality educational children's shorts. After all, making "public service advertisements" and donating computer equipment to schools doesn't cut so much into network profits — right? — and the networks at the same time can "write off" the "public service advertisements" and donated computer equipment against their corporate tax bills to the Internal Revenue Service — right?

And as a public official, chairman of the Federal Communications Committee, your job is to uphold and advocate good quality programming

and not to uphold and advocate network profits. And also, as a public official, your salary you earn is paid to you by folks like me, the American taxpayer. But it is obvious, Mr. Hundt, you seem to have forgotten this fact.

Sixth, before this bill/agreement was signed by President Clinton and yourself, were there any proper public hearings held on this, thus giving the general American public the opportunity to express its views on this matter.

It was last century that President Abraham Lincoln made the remark, "The philosophy of the schoolhouse in one generation will be the philosophy of government in the next." What I am getting at with this statement, Mr. Hundt, is that the average modern day American child is educated about "Kugrats", but is poorly educated when it comes to general knowledge of geography, zoology, the English language — I know of one boy, who was 12 years old, who knew all about "Kugrats", "Beavis and Butthead", but who knew nothing about what a beaver is and what a beaver looks like. So much for "educational" children's programmes and shows, Mr. Hundt. A lot of children are like this; and today's children are to be future leaders of tomorrow, Or ill educated idiots.

I would be very much interested in hearing from you as to this entire matter, But I felt it was only right for me to write to you. Maybe I will hear from you.

Thank You,
Cynthia Teaton

MM93-48

ORIGINAL J-9
Please advise
D-0



TRAUMA FOUNDATION
**CENTER ON
ALCOHOL ADVERTISING**

DIRECTOR
Laurie Leiber
PROJECT ASSOCIATE
Jennifer E. Logan

SENIOR ADVISORS
Andrew McGuire
James E. Mosher

September 6, 1995 EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

cc: Karen
Kornbluh

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, Suite #814
Washington, DC 20554

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OCT 11 1996

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Chairman Hundt:

According to the *New York Times* (Monday, July 17, 1995), you stated that, "By far the most children are watching television in that hour between 7 and 8." You were commenting on the impact of the prime-time rule.

I am writing to request the data that supports your statement. I have asked both the public affairs office and the mass media bureau for assistance. I have also spoken to people in your office. Several people have agreed to look into my inquiry. After several weeks, none of them has provided the information that I seek.

I would normally hesitate to direct this type of inquiry to your attention, but I have exhausted other channels without success. Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Laurie Leiber
Director

cc: Jeff Chester

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